

*Kennedy  
file*

25 February, 1963

MEMORANDUM TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Re: Dr. Ross Pet Food - Political Contributions

John Reilly has informed me of the discussion in Los Angeles concerning the case against this corporation under 18 U.S.C. §610 for the making of political contributions.

Attached is a full memorandum prepared at my request summarizing enforcement activity under this statute since 1930. There have been a number of prosecutions of both corporations and labor unions. It is not correct that the statute is not regularly enforced.

You may wish to have someone read through the memorandum.

It is to be noted that the President's Commission on Campaign Costs recommended last year continued vigorous enforcement of the statute. The language of the report appears on page 6 of the memorandum.

Dr. Ross Pet Food violated the statute. There does not appear to be any basis for treating that company differently from others. I have recommended against a personal indictment of the President of the company, contrary to the recommendation of my staff.

Last August I discussed with you the probable claim which would be made that prosecution was based upon the character of the political contributions, which favored extreme conservative candidates. Of course, the opposite would be true; if we prosecute, we do so despite that factor. At the time, it was decided that there was no basis for failing to proceed.

I still think we should go ahead.

Attachment

~~Miss~~  
Kennedy  
file

20 February, 1963

MEMORANDUM TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

State Representative Dawson Addis of Oconee County, South Carolina, is coming up here to see me next Tuesday. At the time of the Clemson integration, Mr. Addis got in touch with me because of indications that he had that some of the farmers in his county intended to go to Clemson and possibly start trouble. I provided information, including statements by you, for his use with the local weekly newspapers which are read in that area. In addition, he and some others went and visited a number of the farmers. As a result of this, there were no incidents from that source.

Mr. Addis appears to be an Administration Democrat. He would very much like to meet you. Would you like to see him? If so, I will make arrangements with Angie.

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**Re: Richard Allen POSEY**

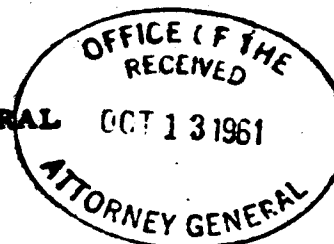
This is in reply to your inquiry as to the action taken in the above case.

Posey was charged with bank robbery but found to be incompetent to stand trial and was committed to the Medical Center, Springfield, Missouri, where he has been for some eighteen months now. Under the law, we cannot continue to hold him there for an indefinite period unless it is found that, if released, he will probably endanger the safety of the officers, the property, or other interests of the United States. Since Springfield psychiatrists determined that Posey is not dangerous, the Criminal Division agreed to a dismissal of the indictment to pave the way for his transfer to a state mental institution.

Mr. Lloyd Buford, United States Attorney in Macon, Georgia, objected to dismissing the indictment because of strong local feeling concerning the case. After several conversations, it was agreed that Mr. Buford would discuss with Judge Beattie, the advisability of returning Posey to the sentencing court for a judicial determination of dangerousness. As of now, Judge Beattie has not yet expressed himself on that point. If the judge will make a finding that Posey is dangerous to the interests of the United States -- which he may do notwithstanding the findings of the psychiatrists -- Posey may be held indefinitely at Springfield and the indictment can remain outstanding. If not, Posey should be transferred out of federal custody by dismissal of the outstanding indictment and transferred to a suitable state institution for further care and treatment.

**BURKE MARSHALL**  
**Assistant Attorney General**  
**Civil Rights Division**

From  
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL  
CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION  
to



Official indicated below by check mark

The Attorney General	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The Deputy Attorney General	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Solicitor General	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant Attorney General, Antitrust	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant Attorney General, Tax	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant Attorney General, Civil	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant Attorney General, Lands	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant Attorney General, Criminal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant Attorney General, Legal Counsel	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant Attorney General, Alien Property	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant Attorney General, Internal Security	<input type="checkbox"/>
Administrative Assistant Attorney General	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director, F.B.I.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director, Bureau of Prisons	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner, Immig. and Naturalization	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pardon Attorney	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parole Board	<input type="checkbox"/>
Board of Immigration Appeals	<input type="checkbox"/>
Executive Assistant to the Attorney General	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director, Public Information	<input type="checkbox"/>
Records Administration Branch	<input type="checkbox"/>
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MEMORANDUM

*Inde*  
*What did we end up doing*  
*in Perry case*  
*Ree*

7-10/6/61

OCT 11 1961

Mr. Dyerly

OCT 23 1961

Harold H. Greene, Chief  
Appeals and Research Section

HHG:bco

Richard Allen POSEY

I received a call today from Mr. Lloyd Buford, United States Attorney in Macon, Georgia. Mr. Buford is very much opposed to dismissing the indictment in the above case because of the seriousness of the case and general feeling in the community concerning it and similar occurrences. Mr. Buford stated that he was unable to understand why we wanted the indictment dismissed in-as-much as it was his understanding that the Georgia State Hospital might accept Posey (as they have done in other cases) even though the federal indictment is outstanding. I indicated to him that it was my understanding that it is the general policy of state hospitals not to accept persons charged with federal crime, and that this primarily dictated our request for dismissal. I indicated that I would check this point and call him back within the next two days. If Posey is to be transferred to the Georgia State Hospital, Mr. Buford would prefer that it be done with the federal charges remaining on the books because the prisoner would then be subject to more stringent security requirements.

Mr. Buford also said that if a transfer to a state institution could not be worked out he would then prefer to bring the matter to Judge Scott's attention with the view to seeking a finding of dangerousness under section 4247. Incidentally, according to Mr. Buford's records, there is nothing to indicate that psychiatrists ever found Posey to be dangerous.

cc: Records  
Chron.  
Greene(3)  
Atty. Gen. ✓

-3-

It appears that state capital charges are outstanding against Percy and it may well be that the state may want to place these charges when possible.

Let's discuss this at your earliest convenience.

I called Jack Rosenthal  
when I received this as I  
let him know you would not  
be back this p.m. He would  
like you to call him either  
at the Department tonight  
or at home, Federal 3-5121.  
If you do not contact him  
tonite, first thing in morning  
will do.

Vance

August 22, 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Re: School desegregation this fall

There are 33 school districts which are desegregating for the first time this fall. There are an additional 24 which are going to have expanded desegregation in some significant degree.

I have been going over all these school districts with a view to deciding whether any law enforcement problem may arise.

None of the new desegregation is in hard-core states where the state government will interfere with compliance. There will be additional desegregation in Atlanta and Little Rock, but there is no reason to believe that the cities cannot continue to handle the situation. The new desegregation is all in Florida, Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

With respect to Virginia, I have asked John Battle to go through the list of new counties and make an informed judgment on whether any problem may arise. He is perfectly agreeable to doing this.

There is obviously going to be a problem of compliance, if not of law enforcement, in Prince Edward County.

I have made arrangements to discuss this with John Battle. The school board is required to submit a plan by September 7. I have made arrangements to see the plan as soon as it is drawn. It is probable that the school board will claim a lack of funds. We are examining the legal aspects of this to determine whether any federal or other action could be taken to release funds for the school board.



The chances of schools in Prince Edward County opening on schedule are very remote.

As to Tennessee, I have asked John Seigenthaler to find out if any problem is possible or probable in any of the five places where new desegregation will take place next month. I visited Chattanooga with John last spring. As far as I know it presents the most serious problems. I am satisfied, however, that the city government, the police force, and a group of citizens have taken and are taking sufficient measures, in the Atlanta manner, that there will be no need for federal action.

In North Carolina there will be four new districts opening up this fall. All are being done without litigation. There is no reason to expect any problem, but I will check this out through McNeil Smith, who is a responsible and knowledgeable lawyer.

All desegregation in Texas is voluntary, and there is no reason to expect any problem. The same is true of Kentucky.

I have discussed the Key West situation with the local officials there and have no reason to believe that any problem will arise.

We have also discussed the Pensacola situation with the United States Marshal in that district. There is again no reason to believe that there will be any problem which will not be dealt with by the local people. These are the only two new districts desegregating in Florida.

I have discussed with you the situation involving the University of Mississippi. We will have to take steps with regard to that situation as soon as there is an effective court order.

There will be a number of additional schools affected in New Orleans this fall. I have followed this through Judge Ellis, the counsel for the school board and the United States Attorney there. There is no reason to expect a repetition of public disorder.

0

- 3 -

A suit has been filed against Clemson in South Carolina. I am informed by Senator Ed Brown that Clemson will admit a Negro in the January term. There will not be any desegregation, however, this September.

Durke Marshall  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

cc: Deputy Attorney General

AUG 22 1952

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

Over the past few weeks we have asked the Bureau to conduct an investigation into a possible violation of 18 U.S.C. §610 by Dr. Ross Pet Food Company in California. This statute prohibits contributions by corporations in connection with any election to any political office.

It appears from the investigation that the company has made political contributions through paid advertisements in behalf of the election of right-wing candidates for various Congressional seats. The total amounts involved are in the neighborhood of \$11,000. There is also a small contribution to support a broadcast on behalf of Howard Jarvis, a candidate in the primary for the Republican nomination for the Senate.

Accordingly, the investigation discloses a violation of the statute which should be presented to a grand jury for an indictment. My recommendation is that that be done.

If an indictment is returned the charge will be made that the prosecution is because of the nature of the political views held by the president of the company, who appears to be a member of the John Birch Society. Accordingly, I did not want to proceed without your approval.

Burke Marshall  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

July 31, 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Re: Huntsville, Alabama, School Situation

On July 30 in Huntsville I met with Mr. Beirne Spragins, president of the local bank; Harry Rhett, a local businessman and director of the bank; Will Halsey, the owner of a large grocery business; Leroy Simms, the editor of the Huntsville Times (a Newhouse paper) and Dr. Raymond Christian, the superintendent of the city schools.

The first four are collectively responsible for a realistic and sensible approach to the racial problem in Huntsville. The city has desegregated its golf courses and the lunch counters of the chain stores. They are committed to the hiring of Negro policemen. Rhett and Halsey meet as the white representatives on a bi-racial committee with two Negro leaders, although these meetings are not known in the community.

They all recognize that a start has to be made by the Huntsville schools.

They are all of the opinion that it cannot be done this September. The time is too short, and they are all of the opinion that Governor Patterson would interfere in a massive way, even to the use of the National Guard as in Little Rock.

They are all willing personally to make a commitment for a start of desegregation in the fall of 1962. I told them that we were interested more in having a start than in what specific steps were taken.

- 2 -

We discussed the attitude of George Wallace. I pointed to his campaign. I expressed doubt that he would permit desegregation at Huntsville on a voluntary basis, although a court order would give him a retreat, as in the cases of Vandiver in Georgia, Davis in Louisiana, and Almond in Virginia. They recognize this point. In addition, Dr. Christian was somewhat doubtful whether the school board itself could defend taking any step voluntarily.

Mr. Simms, who has been sought out by George Wallace and has been told by him that he did not really mean his campaign speeches, said that he would feel out Mr. Wallace on the question of what his attitude would be. He will not involve us at all.

It is my guess that Mr. Simms will not be able to get any kind of reassurance from Judge Wallace, other than some general statement that he will have to make a lot of noise but will give in at the end.

Accordingly, my guess is that we will have to file suit in Huntsville if any step is to be taken even in the fall of 1963. It is also my guess that we could not get a court order effective before that.

They also said that it would be easier for Huntsville if other cities went at the same time. They pointed out that the Governor would be less apt to try closing schools if schools in more than one city were involved. They suggested Mobile, Dothan and Montgomery. I think we should consider two suits in Alabama.

On the facts the Huntsville suit is a good one. Both the county school board and the city school board are involved. As to the county, there are 103 on-base children and 1934 off-base children going to the schools. Of these, 287 of the off-base children are Negro. As to the city, there are 742 on-base children and 9671 off-base children. Of these, 17 on-base children and 301 off-base children are Negro. In addition, the total amount of federal grants over the past ten years runs into several millions of dollars.

Burke Marshall  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

10

November 28, 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

In accordance with your memorandum of November 16, which is attached, I have discontinued the practice of sending you copies of all the intra-division memoranda. Instead, with your approval I intend to give you a short written report on Monday and Wednesday of each week. I do not think that any more frequent report is necessary in view of the fact that I will talk to you about any matters of more than routine interest in any event.

Burke Marshall  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

**The Attorney General**

**September 6, 1961**

**Burke Marshall  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division**

**School Desegregation in Little Rock,  
Arkansas and Dallas, Texas**

**I think you should call the following peoples:**

**In Little Rock, Mayor Warner Knoop. The City of Little Rock desegregated five junior high schools for the first time and continued school integration in the high schools. This was done without incident. The credit could not go to any particular persons or group. The Mayor is simply representative of the success of the City.**

**The President of the School Board in Little Rock is Everett Tucker. He had to be pushed in to this and the most I would do as to him is to ask the Mayor to extend congratulations to him.**

**In Dallas, I would call Mayor Capell Chief of Police Curry and Mr. C. A. Tatum.**

**The Mayor should be called as the representative of the entire city.**

**The Chief of Police in Dallas is a first-rate man who devoted his full energies to avoiding any incidents. He is as worthy of credit as Chief Jenkins in Atlanta. He has written and is publishing a volume on proposed handling of racial problems and the police.**

**C. A. Tatum is the President of Dallas Power and Light and was Chairman of the group in the Dallas Citizens Council which should have the greatest credit for the success in Dallas. He**

- 2 -

has devoted his own energies to this matter for over a year and is largely responsible for the Dallas community education campaign and the production of the film called, Dallas at the Crossroads.

The Superintendent of Schools in Dallas is a Dr. White. I believe that he was pushed along by Mr. Tatum and others and I see no reason why he should be called.



Form No. 7-96a  
(Rev. 4-1964)

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
ROUTING SLIP

TO	
NAME	BUILDING AND ROOM
1. Mr. John Reilly	Room 4224
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<input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDATION	<input type="checkbox"/> CALL ME	<input type="checkbox"/> YOUR INFORMATION

<input type="checkbox"/> ANSWER OR ACKNOWLEDGE ON OR BEFORE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> PREPARE REPLY FOR THE SIGNATURE OF _____

REMARKS

Attached is the letter from Miss Dozier about her application for the regular appointment of United States Attorney for the Northern District of Mississippi.

FROM	
NAME John Doar	BUILDING, ROOM, EXT. DATE 1145 8/9/61

August 9, 1961

The Honorable B. Eupie Dozier  
United States Attorney  
Northern District of Mississippi  
Oxford, Mississippi

Dear Miss Dozier:

Thank you for your letter of August 7, which I have forwarded to the Deputy Attorney General's office.

I also appreciated your concern with how hard I am working. I feel fine and work never hurt anyone.

I am looking forward to seeing you again.

Sincerely,

JOHN DOAR  
First Assistant  
Civil Rights Division

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. John Seigenthaler  
Administrative Assistant  
to the Attorney General

FROM : John Dear  
First Assistant  
Civil Rights Division

SUBJECT: Ralph Fertig

DATE: August 3, 1961

JD:lvw

I called Mrs. Kjellison, Congressman O'Hara's secretary, and explained to her that I tried to reach Mr. Fertig in Chicago. She gave me a number where he could be reached in Montgomery and I called him there. I explained to him that if he had any difficulties with the local authorities involving what he considered to be a deprivation of his constitutional rights that there was an FBI office in Selma where he could report the matter.

He was somewhat cynical about the fact that the Federal Government would not act before a deprivation took place. However, I explained to him what our authority was and he understood.

He claims to have been abused by the local police at Selma when he was going from Montgomery to Jackson, however, on the advice of his Montgomery attorneys he would not report this to the FBI. Their reasoning was that this would upset the judge before whom he would be required to appear.

I have observed his Montgomery attorneys in court and they appear to be reasonably competent.

3

RECEIVED OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



THE WHITE HOUSE

OCT 31 9 43 AM '63

RECEIVED

October 30, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

The Attorney General thought you would want to see this correspondence. I would appreciate it if I could have it back.

Burke Marshall  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

RESIDENT ATTORNEY GENERAL



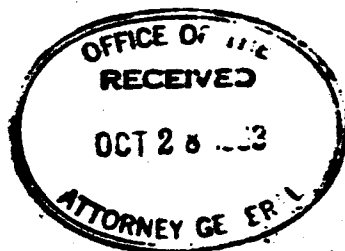
28 October 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

For your information and return.

RM

Attachment



*Handwritten note:*  
Sent to Pao + back for return  
I wish to send a card to  
J.B. Fugate in the Southern State  
A

28 October 1963

J. B. Fuqua, Chairman  
State Democratic Executive  
Committee of Georgia  
Post Office Box 1404  
Augusta, Georgia

Dear J. B.:

Many thanks for your note.  
I saw the news report of your proposals.  
I hope they pass.

It is a great asset to this  
country, as well as Georgia, to have  
you and Governor Sanders in Georgia.

Best regards,

Burke Marshall  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

STATE DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF GEORGIA

J. B. FUGER, Chairman  
P. O. BOX 1004  
AUGUSTA, GEORGIA

October 18, 1963

Hon. Burke Marshall  
Assistant Attorney General  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Burke:

As you can see from the enclosed news story, if we can get our Election Laws Committee proposals through the legislature, which I am positive we can, your boys won't have as much work to do in Georgia.

I am on the Committee, and have been a strong supporter of removing all voter registration restrictions and providing heavy penalties for violation of election laws. Aside from the fact that I sincerely believe it is the right thing to do, I think a good percentage of the new registrants that we might pick up will vote for JFK in '64.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

J. B. Fuger

JBF/vw  
Enclosure

② To Mr. F. H. [unclear]  
information.

Country [unclear] as well as  
Georgia, to have you and  
Governor Sanchez in Georgia.  
Best regards,

① Jan I.C.  
Many thanks for your  
info. I saw the news report  
of your proposals. I hope they  
pass. It is a great asset to this

Send correspondence President  
will receive.

The Attorney General thought  
you would want to see this correspondence.  
I would appreciate it if I could  
have it back.



October 30, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

The Attorney General thought you would want to see this correspondence. I would appreciate it if I could have it back.

Darke Marshall  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

Mr. Nchan:

O

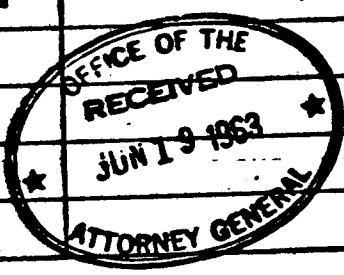
Mr. Golden sent the A. G. a copy of  
his ltr, which was rec'd today

br

Form No. 84-100  
(Rev. 4-15-61)

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
ROUTE SLIP

TO	
NAME	BUILDING AND ROOM
1 The Attorney General	
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5	



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<input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL	<input type="checkbox"/> NECESSARY ACTION	<input type="checkbox"/> AS REQUESTED
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<input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDATION	<input type="checkbox"/> CALL ME	<input type="checkbox"/> YOUR INFORMATION
<input type="checkbox"/> ANSWER OR ACKNOWLEDGE ON OR BEFORE _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> PREPARE REPLY FOR THE SIGNATURE OF _____		

REMARKS

18 June 1963

Did you read this? See marked passage on page 3.

I think this would be good.

BM

Attachment - Harry Golden letter

*Gold - about 1000 - 11/1/63 - 1/1/63*

FROM	BUILDING, ROOM, EXT.	DATE
NAME		

June 17, 1963

President John F. Kennedy  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

You asked me to write you from time to time, but I have been careful to write only when I think I have something to say.

I was with Henry Wilson in Washington listening to your television address on June 11. It was the first moral breakthrough on the race issue. A week later it reads like one of the great Presidential expressions of our history.

The late Judge John J. Parker (Fourth Circuit) was a "Confederate" in every sense of the word. He was a Union County boy, his home a stone's throw from the house where Henry Wilson was born in Kuroe. But Judge Parker was also a "law man." We were close friends and once when I asked him about his religious beliefs, he said; "I believe in Jesus Christ and in the Constitution of the United States." I mention the late Judge Parker because the story is pertinent to the situation today. LAW

In 1955, he sent me with a private message to Governor Luther H. Johnson. The Governor had just attended a Southern Governor's Conference and he had announced that he would go on radio and television to discuss the race issue. Judge Parker gave me this message for the Governor; "The South should make a 'deal' with the Negroes before it is too late...we will stop this movement, but there is still time to make a 'deal.' I therefore recommend that you say the following things on radio and television, and then follow through with the appropriate action: 'The South is law-abiding. We will abide by the decision of the Supreme Court. We will do the best we can beginning tomorrow morning. There are states where we can do something to end racial segregation tomorrow; there are counties where it will take

More

2. President John F. Kennedy

June 17, 1963

us five years; other counties ten to fifteen years; maybe even a few places where we won't be able to do anything in our lifetime, BUT at least we will make a start to do the best we can the first thing tomorrow morning."

Governor Hodges later explained to me that the pressures were too great for him to have used Judge Parker's "message." I believe it would have been a success. I checked on this. The first White Citizens' Council was organized a week after President Eisenhower said; "We cannot legislate against prejudice." This was the "green light." Why didn't they form a White Citizens' Council a day after the Supreme Court decision May 17, 1954? The first one was in Macon, Georgia, and it did not come until March, 1955, after Eisenhower had made that statement and after the several Governors took to the air and said; "Never."

And now we have an entirely different situation which faces us:

The Negro is waging a revolution for the same principles all men wage revolutions: for their rights, for redress of inequities, for a change in the ancienne regime.

As has been said before, however, revolution devours its own child. The French Revolution, managed by Denton, gave way to the reign of terror managed by Robespierre. The March Revolution in Russia, which installed the democratic Kerensky in power gave way to the November Revolution led by Lenin. And we must worry about the Negro revolution in America led by Martin Luther King, the NAACP, and CORE, lest it give way to the one managed by James Baldwin and/or Malcolm X.

What betrays a Revolution is not so much that other men want power, but that in wanting it they bring the revolution into civil war.

The extremist has always said to the moderate, "You have done your work, now get out." It is this peremptory demand, backed by force, that changes revolution into counter-revolution and into civil war. Invariably the extremist wins. He wins because the moderate, the democrat has exhausted himself in the big fight, the fight for principles, and has no strength left for the fight about the application of principles.

Is there an answer?

Yes; this is a new kind of revolution and this revolution will succeed along democratic principles provided the old regime also manages a revolution. All the "whites" have to do is to obey

More

3. President John F. Kennedy -

June 17, 1963

the Constitutional decree of our courts. They have to grant the principles for which the hardy revolutionists fight lest they have to grant the principles for which the counter-revolutionist intrigues.

The choice before us is not whether the Negro will win: that much is assured. The revolution will be successful. The choice before us is whether we see installed the revolutionary or the counter revolutionary, whether we "surrender" to the Negro who fights for equality and dignity or whether we "surrender" to the Messianic fury of racists in reverse.

It is not a hard choice to make.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Attorney General because I have a request to make. I was thinking of setting aside my next book for a few months and writing a book for use during the campaign of 1964, "John F. Kennedy and the Negro," or "The Kennedy Administration and the Race Issue." I would like to write this little book in simple language or in what my critics call, "home-spun style," and I would need to visit with you for a couple of hours early this summer. I would like to begin with your telephone call to Mrs. Martin Luther King in 1950 and, of course, include the speech of June 11 and an analysis of this first moral breakthrough since Lincoln.

My publisher is enthusiastic and I would like to have it in his hands by the end of the year. So all I need now is the appointment with you and the cooperation of the Attorney General. John Steinbeck will write the Foreword. I want to write it in terms of the Negro population with whom I have vast communication.

With my esteem, and affection, I remain

Respectfully yours,

Harry Golden

3. President John F. Kennedy

June 17, 1963

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With my esteem, and affection, I remain

Respectfully yours,

Harry Golden

President's  
file

17 June 1963

MEMORANDUM TO THE HONORABLE CARL KAYSEN

Attached is a suggested draft reply to Prime  
Minister Obote. Sorry it is so late.

BA

Attachment

BY HAND



**DRAFT REPLY TO PRIME MINISTER OBOTE OF UGANDA**

**Dear Mr. Prime Minister:**

I have read your open letter of May 23 last with great interest. I share your sense of deep regret over the recent violence over race relations in Alabama.

This nation was founded by men of many countries and backgrounds, on the principle that all men are created equal and that the rights of all are diminished when the rights of one are threatened. These principles guide this government today, and they will continue to guide our nation.

Our progress in the struggle for full realization of these ideals has been uneven. Unfortunately, the many examples of progress -- the peaceful and voluntary desegregation of schools, transportation facilities, and public accommodations -- lack the drama and impact of demonstrations and violence. But we have seen since your letter was written specific voluntary acts of desegregation by public and private citizens in some 170 different localities in our Southern states. This progress is real, and will last.

In a democracy where freedom of speech and individual belief must also be guarded, it is not simple to deal with hatred or intolerance.

One is a large country, a federation of fifty separate states. Each state retains certain police powers over which the federal government has no control. The national government may intervene only where there is a breach of some national obligation. The men who created our constitutional system had the specific and express desire to limit the powers of the national government over the people directly, and over the states in conduct of their affairs. These limitations were created out of revolution by men who suffered from tyranny. They are limitations which preserve our freedom, and they have been effective in doing so for almost 200 years. But they have, at the same time, made the country ineffective in the past, for a long period of time, in dealing with racial discrimination left as one of the terrible effects of a cruel and unjustified system of slavery. In this country we are now faced with the consequences of this past. To resolve it, as I said to the country last week, is a moral obligation which cannot be met by the federal government alone, but requires the help of the states and the localities and the citizens of the country. I am absolutely confident that we will receive that help.

3

You write, Mr. Prime Minister, that "one feels that there is an iron curtain which has been drawn over the events that have been taking place in Birmingham, Alabama. . . ." I wish to assure you and the nations of the world, both free and unfree, that the United States Government has made no attempt, nor will it make any attempt, to conceal in any way its problems in the area of race relations. We do not pretend or believe that we are perfect, or that everyone in America is always in agreement. But we have met other challenges in our national existence, and we will overcome this one.

President

June 13, 1963

Dear Mrs. Evers:

I extend to you and your children my sincerest condolences on the tragic death of your husband. Although comforting thoughts are difficult at a time like this, surely there can be some solace in the realization of the justice of the cause for which your husband gave his life. Achievement of the goals he did so much to promote will enable his children and the generations to follow to share fully and equally in the benefits and advantages our nation has to offer.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Medgar Evers  
2312 Gypsy Street  
Jackson 3, Mississippi

Note: Following message added by President by hand:

Mrs. Kennedy joins me in extending her deepest sympathy.

alpha

8 April 1963

**MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT**

**Re: Civil Rights Commission Resolution**

The following are the specific events in Mississippi referred to by the Commission, together with a report on what action has been taken:

1. "Citizens of the United States have been shot. . . ." This probably refers to a shooting in Leflore County on February 28th of a registration worker named Travis. The FBI commenced an immediate full investigation. So did local authorities. Two men and a 17-year old boy have been arrested and charged under state law. The matter will be presented to a state grand jury in May. If the state does not take effective action, federal charges will be presented, although the only federal crime involved is intimidating a person in connection with the exercise of the franchise, and that is simply a misdemeanor.

There has been in the past six months one other incident in which injuries were sustained. The Bureau has made a full investigation but has not discovered who did that. It is obviously very difficult to find out who fires shots into a house at night. There have also been shots fired without injury to anyone. Again the Bureau on each occasion has been asked to make every effort to determine the persons responsible. There is no suggestion that any local or state official of Mississippi is involved in any of these matters.

2. "...set upon by vicious dogs...." This refers to the use of a police dog in Greenwood last week. The dog bit a minister in the leg. This is one of the incidents upon which we based a lawsuit which was filed two days later against the Greenwood police. As that matter rests, the Greenwood police have ceased interference with registration activity, and in fact, on Friday, transported Negro applicants to and from the Courthouse in city buses.

The use of police dogs is not a prohibited police activity. They are used in the District of Columbia, among other places.

3. "...beaten and otherwise terrorized because they sought to vote...." I do not know what specific incidents are referred to. There were some incidents in southern Mississippi in the summer of 1961, in one of which a Negro registration worker was pistol-whipped by the registrar of Walthall County. We brought a successful case in that instance and attempt to act as promptly as possible on any incident involving voting when we can find out who is responsible.

4. "Since the postponement of the Commission's October hearing, students have been fired upon, ministers have been assaulted and the home of the Vice-Chairman of the State Advisory Committee to this Commission has been bombed." The first two matters are discussed in paragraphs numbered 1 and 2 above. It has not been possible to find out who was responsible for the bombing, which took place last October. The FBI has pursued every possibility. Again, there is no suggestion that state or local officials were involved.

5. "Another member and his wife were jailed on trumped-up charges after his home had been defiled." This matter was thoroughly investigated both by the Commission and by the Department of Justice. The Department agreed to undertake the defense of the man in state court. This proved unnecessary because the charges were dropped by the state authorities after

investigation by the local prosecuting attorney. We are still investigating the possibility of bringing federal charges against those responsible for the false accusation.

6. "Even children, at the brink of starvation, have been deprived of assistance by the callous and discriminatory acts of Mississippi officials administering federal funds." Late last year the officials of Leflore County decided not to undertake surplus food distribution on a large-scale basis this winter, as had been done in the past. The charge was made that this decision was connected with voter registration work. Four lawyers from the Department of Justice were sent to determine whether there was a large-scale need for food, particularly among Negro families. Their investigation, which consisted of a survey including interviews with a large number of families, showed deplorable conditions and inadequate diet. As a result, the Department of Agriculture informed the County that unless the County resumed food distribution itself, the federal government would do so directly. The County resumed the distribution of food week before last. It is now being done at federal expense.

The charge has been made also that the school lunch program is being administered in a fashion which discriminates against Negro school children. The staff of the Commission itself is undertaking an investigation to find out if this is true. The Department of Justice has no facts on this charge at present.

#### 7. Federal funds.

There is another memorandum as to what area of discretion exists on the items listed.

The existing airport in Jackson was desegregated after we informed the city that we would otherwise

bring suit. If Jackson did have segregated facilities in a new airport, we would immediately take the same action. The FAA has informed us that they have no reason to believe that the new airport will have segregated facilities. To the extent they know, their information is to the contrary. None of the grants made by the FAA are for terminal facilities, however.

BN

cc: The Attorney General